



Rome 8th Sep^r: 1869

My dear Tom

I am much pleased with the frankness of ^{your} letter, but I am grieved at what you write about poor dear Maria - the delay has been partly caused by my not being able to get a Bank note for in sending a bill I had to pay the Banker 6 shillings but the more serious reason, my long & expensive illness for I told you in a former letter "that if the Pneumatisin did not kill me the expenses certainly would" for I am thrown back nearly £100 - yet I foresaw that I might be a cripple for life & so I have taken every means in my power to get well

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1869

I am now I am glad today very near well except
that my fingers remain cracked for ever I fear
the end of this year will set all right - you
are mistaken in supposing that I have lots
of money at command - my expences are very
great. my two Secretaries cost me £320 a year
my ^{house} £80 & so on for you see in my official position
I am constrained to make a certain figure & thus
I came to the Consulate totally ignorant the
private secretaries have set me up

I sent annexed an order of £6 on F. B. Alston
my agent at the F. O. but I regret that it is
for the 2^d October & also that I trouble you to
go - but here I have just now to scrape together
£46 for Doctors, medicines, baths &c - It is just
now I return from Toluca having taken 49 baths
in all during the 3 years with good effect as I
have got back my legs. - Then as I told you
I have had to provide an income for Eleanor
after my death, which costs me exactly a
thousand pounds - this year all will be paid
Now I will write dear Maria herself soon
meanwhile with my love to all
your loving brother Joe

Eleanor's illness from the heat is serious, the 2
journeys cost near £40 - yet I enjoyed the
good company of my twins & feel their loss
I am alone & very dull on the evenings, but
friends begin to tumble in & so I shall be kept
alive - There's a charming English Lady takes me
out in her carriage 2 or 3 times a week, she's
just come back - How you all would wonder
if you could peep into my various doings, to see
the enormous difficulties in which I have
never been educated & which I get thro' easily
The Judges have began to call me to their
decisions & so I have it all my own way in
favour of my countrymen & have lately saved
an artist from the galleys by treating with the
Judge, they tell me I should have made a
good counsellor - What splendid success my
illustrations for Gladstone has had & what an
amount of envy there is against him!! The
Nobles who have arrived are ready to devour him
there was nobody in Rome but me believing
in his great power - how proud I am at being
right - My love to all your dear ones & to Emma
in Cairo, do tell me about her - your loving brother
Joe
We have a beautiful October - when shall I ever be able to